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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/107 W
----------044780 261701Z /43
R 260945Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7883
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN POUCH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1598

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF, UK
SUBJECT: U.K. FIRM HAS BLACK TRADE UNION LEADER ARRESTED

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1352

1. THE SECRETARY OF THE PAPER WOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (AN URBAN TRAINING PROJECT AFFILIATE), BENJY MNGOMA, AND ORGANIZER DAVID LETSEKE WERE ARRESTED ON JUNE 21 WHILE DISTRIBUTING UNION LITERATURE AT THE BRITISH SUBSIDIARY, PAPER AND PACKING INDUSTRIES, IN ROSSLY, NORTH OF PRETORIA. DURING QUESTIONING BY TWO WHITE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY POLICE, MNGOMA WAS ADVISED NOT TO GO BACK TO THE FIRM BECAUSE ITS MANAGEMENT HAD CALLED THE POLICE TO REMOVE THEM.

2. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE UNE 25 EDITION OF THE POST
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MNGOMA IS QUOTED AS SAYING "WHAT MAKES ME MAD IS THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE BRITISH FIRMS WHICH SAID IT HAD NEVER BEEN APPROACHED BY A BLACK TRADE UNION. HERE WE APPROACH THE WORKERS TO EXPLAIN HOW THE UNION WORKS -- AND THE MANAGEMENT CALLS IN THE POLICE".

3. MNGOMA HAS INFORMED THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER THAT

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BASED ON LEGAL ADVICE, HE INTENDS RETURNING TO THE
BRITISH SUBSIDIARY ON JUNE 27.

4. COMMENT: THE MANAGEMENT'S OF MULTINATIONALS OF
VARIOUS ORIGIN IN SOUTH AFRICA FREQUENTLY ASSERT THEY
HAVE NEVER BEEN APPROACHED BY BLACK TRADE UNIONS WHILE
COLLABORATING IN THE CLASSIC NINETEENTH CENTURY TRADITION
WITH THE POLICE IN INTIMIDATING BLACK TRADE UNION
ORGANIZERS. SUCH PRACTICES ARE INCONSISTENT BOTH WITH
THE INTENDED WIEHAHN REFORMS AND BRITISH GOVERMENT
GUIDANCE TO U.K. SUBSIDIARIES ON THE EEC CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR COMPANIES WITH INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. (BRITISH
LABOR ATTACHE VOSE IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THIS CASE.)
JOHNSON

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Concepts: ARRESTS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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